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DESCRIPTION

PORTABLE SHOEHORN

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a portable shoehorn which can be carried around in a bag at any time.

BACKGROUND ART

A portable shoehorn, in which a shoehorn formed in a slender and flat plate shape with the same shape which is bent in the breadth direction and a backscratcher are jointed together at each supporting end with a pin, has been well known so far.

The above-described conventional portable shoehorn has a configuration in which a backscratcher and a shoehorn which are conventionally individual products, are integrated to one unit such that the conventional portable shoehorn can be carried in a bag, and can be used in quick response to requirements while a user is going out, for example, during traveling. These examples are disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2002-306554.

On the other hand, when a person takes the same posture for a long time, for example, at traveling, he/she wish to take an action for better circulation of blood by relieving a part of his/her body.

However, the above-described conventional portable

shoehorn has been not provided with the above relieving function. Accordingly, it has been required that a tool which is carried, for example, at travelling is provided with the above relieving function.

The present invention has been made, in view of the above-described circumstances, and an object thereof is to provide a portable shoehorn which can be easily and quickly used when a user puts on his/her shoes, his/her backs are itchy, and a part of his/her body are required to be relieved.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

A portable shoehorn according to the present invention is a shoehorn obtained by bending a plate member which has been bent a breadth direction thereof, in a longitudinal direction thereof approximately like a bow to form a slender plate shape, where a grip section of the shoehorn is folded into two parts at a central portion to reduce the entire length thereof approximately by half.

Moreover, the portable shoehorn according to the present invention has a configuration in which a backscratcher is formed at a distal end portion of the grip section and an elastic body for patting a human body is attachably/detachably mounted to the backscratcher and to the shoehorn portion of the shoehorn.

According to the above-described portable shoehorn of the present invention, the portable shoehorn can be easily and

quickly used, while being carried during his/her travelling, such that the shoehorn portion of the shoehorn is used when a user puts on his/her shoes, the backscratcher is utilized when his/her back is itchy, and the elastic body for patting a human body pat his/her body like a shoulder tapper when a part of his/her body is required to be relieved, because the portable shoehorn has a configuration in which the portable shoehorn can be folded and can be also used as a backscratcher and a tool with a function for patting a human body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1A is a schematic view of a portable shoehorn according to the present invention;

Fig. 1B is a side view of the portable shoehorn as viewed in a direction of arrow line A-A in Fig. 1A;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the portable shoehorn taken along line B-B in Fig. 1A;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the portable shoehorn taken along line C-C in Fig. 1A;

Fig. 4A is a schematic view of an elastic body for patting a human body used for the portable shoehorn according to the present invention;

Fig. 4B is a side view of the elastic body as viewed in a direction of arrow line D-D in Fig. 4A;

Fig. 4C is a side view of the elastic body as viewed in

a direction of arrow line E-E in Fig. 4B;

Fig. 5A is a schematic view showing a folded state of the portable shoehorn according to the present invention;

Fig. 5B is a side view of the folded state of the portable shoehorn viewed in a direction of arrow line F-F in Fig. 5A;

Fig. 6 is a schematic view of a portable shoehorn according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7A is a schematic view of an elastic body for patting a human body used for the portable shoehorn shown in Fig. 6;

Fig. 7B is a side view of the elastic body as viewed in a direction of arrow line G-G in Fig. 7A; and

Fig. 7C is a side view as viewed in arrow line H-H in Fig. 7A.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, a portable shoehorn according to an embodiment of the present invention will be explained, referring to drawings.

A portable shoehorn 1 (refer to Figs. 1A and 1B) is a shoehorn obtained by bending a plate member, which has been bend in a breadth direction thereof, in a longitudinal direction thereof approximately lien a bow to form a slender plate shape, where a grip section 1a of the shoehorn is foldable into two parts at a central portion thereof to reduce the entire length of the grip section 1a approximately by half.

Further, the portable shoehorn 1 is constituted such that a backscratcher 2 is formed at a distal end portion of the grip section 1a and an elastic body 3 for patting a human body is attachably/detachably mounted to the backscratcher 2 and a shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn.

The grip section 1a in this embodiment is formed to be narrower in breadth than those of the portion of backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn.

Here, the grip section 1a comprises two members which are rotatably jointed at a central portion with a pin 4, and the central portion is also configured to be the same in breadth as those of the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn.

The backscratcher 2 according to this embodiment comprises a plurality of corrugated projections 2b provided at a bent end of a bent portion 2a made by bending a distal end portion and a plurality of small projections 2c provided at right and left edge portions nearer to the bent portion 2a.

The elastic body 3 for patting a human body according to this embodiment comprises: a main body portion 3b having a spherically-shaped contacting surface 3a with a human body; and mounting portion 3c which are applied to be mounted to the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn, as shown in Figs. 2 through 4.

An engagement groove 3d with a groove breadth which does

not allow engagement with the grip section 1a (Refer to Fig. 3) but allows engagement with the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn are engaged (Refer to Fig. 2) is formed in the mounting section 3c of the elastic body 3 for patting a human body according to this embodiment.

By sliding the elastic body 3 from the grip section 1a to the backscratcher 2 (the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn), using the engagement groove 3d as shown in Fig. 1, the above-described elastic body 3 for patting a human body is mounted to the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn, using the engagement groove 3d.

At this time, the elastic body 3 for patting a human body can be securely mounted to the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn, because both the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn fit with the breadth part of the engagement groove 3d by a configuration in which the breadth of the engagement groove 3d is a little smaller than those of the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn.

Moreover, it is possible to remove the elastic body 3 from the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1a of the shoehorn by sliding the elastic body 3 from the backscratcher 2 (the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn) to the grip section 1a.

That is, as described above, the elastic body 3 for patting a human body is configured to be mounted attachably/detachably

to the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1a of the shoehorn.

The portable shoehorn 1 with the above-described configuration is used as follows:

In the first place, when the portable shoehorn 1 is carried, a grip section 1a is fold into two at the central portion to reduce the total length approximately by half by rotating the two members of the grip section 1a around the pin 4 at the central portion and by overlapping the two members, as shown in Fig. 5, to make the portable shoehorn 1 compact.

When the elastic body 3 for patting a human body is carried, the elastic body 3 may be separately carried as independent components. For example, however, as shown in Fig. 5A, the body may be mounted to the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn, which have been overlapped together.

Then, when the portable shoehorn 1 carried in a folded state is used, any one of the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn is rotated for opening such that both the backscratcher 2 and the shoehorn portion 1b are made into a state like a slender plate, as shown in Fig. 1, which is bent approximately like a bow.

And, when the portable shoehorn 1 is used as a backscratcher or a shoehorn, the backscratcher 2 or the shoehorn portion 1b is used in the slender-plate state.

Moreover, when a user relieves his/her body, the elastic body 3 for patting a human body is mounted to the backscratcher

2 or the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn as described above, and a stiff part of his/her body is patted in a similar manner to that of shoulder tapping, using a contacting section 3a of the main body portion 3b.

As described above, according to the portable shoehorn 1 of the present invention, the portable shoehorn can be easily and quickly used, while being carried during travelling, such that the shoehorn portion 1b of the shoehorn is used when a user puts on his/her shoes, the backscratcher 2 is utilized when his/her back is itchy, and the elastic body 3 for patting a human body is used like a shoulder tapper when a part of his/her body is required to be relieved, because the portable shoehorn 1 has a configuration in which the portable shoehorn can be folded and can be also used as a backscratcher and a tool with a function for patting a human body.

Fig. 6 shows a portable shoehorn 1 according to another embodiment of the present invention. Elastic body 3 for patting a human body is mounted, using a plurality of small protruding projections 2c provided at right and left edge sections of a backscratcher 2. That is, engagement holes 3e, into which small projections 2c of the backscratcher 2 are engaged, are formed in the engagement groove 3d in the elastic body 3 for patting a human body, as shown in Fig. 7.

In this embodiment, one of the small projections 2c at the right and left edge sections of the backscratcher 2 is enlarged

in the size, and is engaged into one of engagement projections 2d for prevention of loosing (Refer to Fig. 6), and, at the same time, the engagement holes 3e (Refer to Fig. 7), into which the engagement projections 2d for prevention of loosing are engaged, are formed in the engagement groove 3d of the elastic body 3 for patting a human body.

As the above-described configuration, by mounting the elastic body 3 for patting a human body to the backscratcher 2, the elastic body 3 for patting a human body can be more securely mounted to the backscratcher 2 without loosing and the mounted state is maintained even when the human body is patted many times, using the elastic body 3.

Furthermore, the small projections 2c at the right and left edge sections of the backscratcher 2 can be used, for example, in the case where a rubber band to fix a cloth for ointment application is held when ointment is applied on his/her back.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described above, in view of times of the low birthrate and the aging population, the portable shoehorn according to the present invention can support the movement of elderly people in their daily lives, and is convenient to carry as a miniaturized tool because it is lightweight and foldable.